100th Anniversary

April 17 to 23, 1966

Melrose Council of Royal and Select Masters

Melrose, Massachusetts

Instituted December 12, 1866

Chartered February 7, 1868

1866 -- 100 Years of Cryptic Masonry - 1966

Organization 1965 - 1966

Illustrious Master
FREDERICK A. SEDDON
40 Oakdale Road, No. Wilmington, Mass., Tel. 658-2478

Deputy Master
ROBERT I. BARR
170 E. Foster St., Melrose
Tel. 665-7627

Principal Conductor of the Work
HERBERT E. SWANSTROM
69 Columbia St., Malden
Tel. 322-2160

Treasurer
NELSON W. THOMAS
4 Gristone Rd., Chelmsford
Tel. 256-5935

Recorder
LOUIS J. HOEPPNER
72 Gould St., Wakefield
Tel. 245-1236

HENRY E. WEBSTER—*Chaplain*
CLARENCE F. RICHTER—*Capt. of Guard*
GEORGE H. KITTRELL—*Steward*
ROBERT G. LYMAN—*Sentinel*
RALPH PUDDISTER—*Electrician*
Rt. Ill. HOWARD M. BOOTHBY—*Ritualist*
CHARLES F. MAXFIELD—*Mast. of Ceremonies*
BERNARD F. CANN—*Conductor of Council*
RUSSELL B. S. GREENE, JR.—*Alt. Officer*
ROWLAND M. BLACKSTONE—*Organist*
GEORGE W. BEERS—*Assistant Electrician*
GORDON L. SPINNEY—*Director of Drama*

Trustees of the Permanent Fund
Ill. CARLISLE H. PECKHAM—Term expires 1966
Ill. CLARENCE A. MOFF—Term expires 1967
Ill. FREDERICK H. SIMMONS—Term expires 1968

Trustees of the Life Membership Fund
Comp. VICTOR H. SMITH—Term expires 1966
Rt. Ill. EDWARD NORRIS—Term expires 1967
Ill. GEORGE S. KENISON—Term expires 1968

Past Illustrious Masters

*Ill. William C. Morey, U.D.	1866-1868
*Ill. William C. Morey	1868-1868
*Rt. Ill. John P. Soule	1868-1870
*Rt. Ill. Jeremiah D. Parker	1870-1872
*Ill. William F. Chester	1872-1875
*Ill. John P. Loring	1875-1878
*Ill. Frank E. Orcutt	1878-1880
*Ill. Daniel D. Deveraux	1880-1882
*Ill. Robert Burlen	1882-1885
*Ill. Joseph McIntyre	1885-1886
*Ill. Zacheus Holmes	1886-1888
*Rt. Ill. William F. Bickford	1888-1890
*Ill. Edwin M. Shepherd	1890-1892
*Rt. Ill. Walter F. Medding	1892-1894
*M. Ill. Samuel G. Lyman	1894-1896
*Ill. Harry Hunt	1896-1897
*Ill. Fred L. Miner	1897-1899
*Ill. John H. Studley, Jr.	1899-1900
*Ill. Willis I. Foss	1900-1901
*Ill. George W. Longley	1901-1902
*Ill. William Wooldridge	1902-1903
*Ill. Joel C. Bolan	1903-1904
*Ill. Wallace M. Corbin	1904-1905
*Rt. Ill. George A. Chisholm	1905-1906
*Ill. Aubrey W. Dunton	1906-1907
*Ill. George L. Griffin	1907-1908
*Ill. William Anderson	1908-1909
*Ill. William J. Chisholm	1909-1910
*Rt. Ill. Irving F. Ridlon	1910-1911
*Ill. Charles E. Prior	1911-1912
*Ill. Sanford Crandon	1912-1913
*Ill. Alvin F. Pease	1913-1914
*Ill. Forrest A. Seavey	1914-1915
*Ill. Wilbert H. Nute	1915-1916
*Ill. Elmer C. Richardson	1916-1917
*Ill. Alfred Rotheray	1917-1918
*Ill. Arthur W. Taylor	1918-1919
*Ill. Albert F. Burgess	1919-1920
*Ill. Herbert G. Ballou	1920-1921
*Ill. S. Hale Baker	1921-1922
*Ill. Joseph H. Crosby	1922-1923
*Ill. Andrew G. Robinson	1923-1924
*Ill. Reginald Wooldridge	1924-1925
*Ill. Edward Barker	1925-1926
*Rt. Ill. Clarence E. Cate	1926-1927
*Ill. David S. Huey	1927-1928
*Ill. Philip L. Wheeler	1928-1929
*Ill. Warren H. White	1929-1930
*Ill. Fuller C. Scofield	1930-1931
*Ill. Ned C. Loud	1931-1932
M. Ill. Norman K. Wiggin	1932-1933
*Ill. James S. McDaniel	1933-1934
Ill. George S. Kenison	1934-1935
Ill. Percy H. Callbeck	1935-1936
M. Ill. Frank H. Wilson	1936-1937
*Ill. Edward R. Goodwin	1937-1938
Ill. Wilbur E. Parker	1938-1939
*Ill. Alton W. Eldredge	1939-1940
Ill. Carlisle H. Peckham	1940-1941
*Ill. Alexander F. Boig	1941-1942
Ill. Angier L. Goodwin	1942-1943
Ill. Ralph K. Manning	1943-1944
*Ill. Carleton A. Sawyer	1944-1945
Rt. Ill. Edward Norris	1945-1946
Ill. Elmer K. Hanna	1946-1947
Ill. Mortimer W. Schroeder	1947-1948
*Ill. Forest H. Ward	1948-1949
*Ill. Enos R. Pye	1949-1950
*Rt. Ill. Albert F. Ford	1950-1951
Ill. Elmer B. Chesley	1951-1952
Rt. Ill. Howard M. Boothby	1952-1953
Ill. Frederick H. Irwin	1953-1954
Ill. Frederick H. Simmons	1954-1955
Ill. Casmar J. Sveistys	1955-1956
Ill. Thomas E. Lanigan	1956-1957
Ill. Ralph G. Eames	1957-1958
Ill. Clarence A. Moff	1958-1959
Ill. Nelson W. Thomas	1959-1960
Ill. Roy M. Reed	1960-1961
Ill. Louis J. Hoeppner	1961-1962
Ill. G. Burton Long	1962-1963
Ill. Arnold G. Cole	1963-1964
Ill. Charles F. Maxfield	1964-1965

* Deceased

HISTORY OF MELROSE COUNCIL
Of Royal and Select Masters
1866 - 1966

On page one of the first book of records of Melrose Council we find the following entry:

"Dispensation Members of Melrose Council of Select and Royal Masters.

Joseph H. Waitt
Erastus N. Leavens
E. H. Bowditch *
Charles Copeland
Charles C. Dike
John P. Soule
J. Bowditch *
W. T. Plaisted *
Thomas Winship
William C. Morey
George P. Cox
George O. Brastow *
Lyman Dike
William Hurd
John Botume, Jr.
Swift Byington *
Ashbel Waitt
J. D. Parker

* Names with this mark had a notation after their name, "Never signed."

They petitioned the Annual Convocation of the Grand Council on December 12th, 1866 at Boston, Mass. for the purpose of having a Council in Melrose, Mass. On the same day, Haverhill, Mass. also made a similar petition to the Grand Council. Since there were only six Councils in Massachusetts at this time that would make one of these two, the seventh. Thus we designate Melrose as number seven until such time as Haverhill Council can successfully gainsay our claim.

A meeting of the Dispensation members of Melrose Council of Select and Royal Masters was held at Free Masons Hall, Boston, Mass., February 28th, 1867. M.I.G.M. William C. Morey presided in the chair. John D. Parker was appointed as Secretary for the meeting. Committees were appointed to procure the necessary paraphernalia for the use of the Council and to prepare a slate of officers. A third committee was appointed to prepare and report a code of By-Laws.

On March 23rd, 1867, a second meeting was held, this time at Mount Vernon Hall in Malden. This meeting was devoted to organization. The officers who were nominated to fill the stations of Chaplain, Treasurer, Recorder, Master of Ceremonies, Captain of the Guard, Conductor of the Work, Sentinel, and Tyler were installed. It was then voted that the fees for the degrees be $20.00. The committee on By-Laws was given further time and the meeting adjourned.

A Special Meeting U.D., was called on April 12, 1867 in the Mount Vernon Hall, Malden at 7 P.M. for the purpose of balloting on 20 Candidates. This done, the Council closed at 8¾ o'clock.

The second Special U.D. was held in Wyoming Hall, Melrose for the purpose of voting on the applications of five more Candidates. This done, the meeting closed at 8½ o'clock. Time, as you will notice, was reported in fractions of an hour. This continued until the May meeting in 1873 when the meeting opened at 7:30 P.M. Most of the meetings were closed without form during the first ten years. Then we find them closing in form and later in due form. Companions in those days were no doubt in a hurry to get home. There were no street cars. You walked unless you had a "Dobbin" tied to a hitching post outside or another Companion offered you a ride in his rig.

The third Special Meeting, held in Waverly Hall, Melrose, started at 10 A.M. After voting on six new Candidates, the Council proceeded to initiate the three groups that had been voted in during the last few months. The afternoon meeting closed at 4½ hours and a Regular Meeting opened at 7 o'clock to complete the work. Council

— *Continued on page 3*

FREDERICK A. SEDDON

Presiding Illustrious Master

MELROSE COUNCIL of ROYAL and SELECT MASTERS

1965 - 1966

HISTORY — Continued

closed at 9 o'clock. All 3 Degrees were conferred.

On October 16, 1867 the committee on By-Laws made their report and it is recorded that the code as presented was accepted. It was then voted that the three first officers of the Council procure a sufficient number of signatures to the Petition for a charter and present it to the Grand Council.

The December, 1867, meeting was one of organization in preparation for the night they would receive their Charter. This special meeting opened at 7 o'clock. Companion William C. Morey was elected Most Illustrious Master, Companion Thomas Winship elected I.C. of Tyre and Companion John P. Soule elected to the office of Illustrious Master of the Work. Meeting closed at 8 o'clock. At the December meeting it was voted to invite all Royal Arch Masons to the February 7th Charter Night.

February 7, 1868, Melrose Council received its Charter at a Public Installation of officers as its first order of business by the Most Puissant Grand Master of Massachusetts. After the ceremonies were completed, the whole company repaired to the banquet hall and partook of a bountiful collation, listened to remarks from the Companions, while some joined in the mazy dance. At a late hour the company retired well pleased with the entertainment.

At the January 15th meeting in 1868 the deaths of four Companions were reported. Among them was Companion Byington, Chaplain, and Thomas Winship, a charter member.

In March, 1869, Melrose Council took part in the ceremonies of constituting Lawrence Council. An extra train from Lawrence was provided for the Companions to return home after the ceremony.

April 16, 1869, a petition from Companions in Medford was received praying for the consent of our Council to establish a new council in Medford. It was granted.

— Continued on page 5

Compliments of

Companion

Frederick T. Alden

Compliments of

Companion

Ralph S. Perkins

Compliments of

Most Illustrious

Norman K. Wiggin

Illustrious Master

Melrose Council

1932 - 1933

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HISTORY — Continued

In October of this year we find the first Financial Report and it showed that we were still in the red by about $568.60, that our membership was 110 and we had received 58 Candidates during the year. 89 of our members have signed the By-Laws.

The call of the meeting for September 16, 1870, was printed on a single sheet, 8 x 5, and calling the meeting for 7½ o'clock. At this meeting an elegant ivory gavel was presented to us by Ex. Companion and Brother the Honorable N. B. Shurtleff, Mayor of Boston.

In May, 1871, we received word from Charleston, South Carolina, that William C. Morey, our first Illustrious Master, Charter Member and prime mover of the activities that gave Melrose a Council, had passed away. The Council in Charleston acted in our behalf and we gratefully thanked them for their cooperation.

During the next several years, Melrose Council, together with other institutions, were suffering from the lack of Candidates and collection of dues from their members. In the 1870's and 1890's we suffered great depressions. Many banks and business houses failed because of unsound credit expansion. We find these depressions reaching into the early 20th Century and up to the time of the creation of the Federal Reserve System which was started in 1914.

Into the first of this period Melrose Council found it hard to end a year with a balance of cash on hand of more than a few dollars. Delinquency in dues now became a problem. At each annual meeting the question would come up. It would be voted to defer action until the next annual meeting.

In 1876, the Council voted to look into the possibility of moving to Charlestown. Nothing came of this because Charlestown informed us that they were nearing an expiration of their own lease.

In November of this year we see a change in the wording of the records

— *Continued on page 7*

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of

MELROSE COUNCIL,

Royal and Select Masters

MELROSE, MASSACHUSETTS

1965 - 1966

HISTORY — Continued

The heading of the minutes of the meeting reads, "Melrose Council of Royal and Select Masters". The Most Illustrious Grand Master, speaking at this meeting, urged a change in our work to starting with the Royal Degree. He called his remarks "The necessity of uniformity." His remarks were received with interest and great attention, as reported by Edw. C. Bradford, Recorder.

During the next few years, a cheerful and willing group of Companions worked hard to keep the Council active and valuable to the members. Finally they made up their minds to move to Malden. They were informed that Malden was moving into a new Masonic Hall, that there would be room for them. They requested permission from the Grand Council, which was granted, and they moved to their new Council location. Their first meeting was December 8, 1886, which was their 200th Regular Assembly. Eight Malden men made application at this meeting and things began to happen. By September 21, 1886, they had conferred degrees on 27 Candidates. Membership rose to 115.

In 1891 membership for the first time went over 200. 205 to be exact and cash on hand, $284.74.

March 9, 1898, 61 officers and members visited Orient Council of Somerville. They went by special electric cars. They presented Orient Council an "Ark of the Covenant" surmounted with gold cherubim of exquisite workmanship, as a lasting evidence of good will between the two Councils. Over 300 Companions from all over the state were present. Orient was instituted January 26, 1889, and now age 9.

Melrose Council did not celebrate their 25th Anniversary, they did not pay any attention to the passing of the 19th Century or the dawn of the 20th. For some reason they decided to celebrate the 350th Regular Meeting of the Council, on November 18, 1901. It was a ladies night starting with a banquet

— Continued on page 9

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Illustrious Master, MELROSE COUNCIL

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Hamilton, Bermuda.
Member and present KING of
READING ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER.
Reading, Mass.
Member and Presiding ILLUSTRIOUS MASTER of
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and followed by an entertainment, consisting of whistling solos, songs, readings, impersonations and pantomime sketches. Several banjo selections were rendered in a very credible manner.

It was during 1901 that our Permanent Fund was started. An amendment to the By-Laws provides that 10% of the money received for the degrees plus the amount received for Life Membership and any funds donated to the Council by will or otherwise shall be for the establishment of a fund to be designated as the "Permanent Fund of Melrose Council". The interest of said fund may be used for the running expenses of the Council. The fund or any part of it may be used only by a two-thirds vote of the members. Life Membership now $35.00. A By-Law provided for three Trustees to be known as "Trustees of the Permanent Fund of Melrose Council".

Fraternal visits between Councils has always been a feature of the Cryptic Degrees in Masonry. Thrice Illustrious Master Dean K. Webster and the officers of Lawrence Council and their band made a fraternal visit to Melrose and assisted in the work of the evening, during 1908. Not too long thereafter Melrose Council returned the visit.

On April 15, 1908, we sent our expressions of sympathy to Napthali Council, Chelsea, for the total loss they suffered in the Great Chelsea Fire. We sent them a check for $25.

Our Council was invited to participate in the laying of the corner stone of the Soldiers & Sailors Monument at Bell Rock, Malden on May 30, 1909. Officers and members of Hyde Park Council paid us a fraternal visit, January, 1910. Three months later, on April 7, 1910, we returned this visit. It was exactly 38 years from the date of our previous visit. Our Illustrious Companion Edwin M. Shepard was present on both of these occasions.

The Fiftieth Anniversary was observed on the 501st Regular Assembly, December 20, 1916. Most Illustrious

— *Continued on page 11*

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Companion Wesley Lord

1st Row, left to right — Henry E. Webster, Robert I. Barr, Frederick A. Seddon, Herbert E. Swanstrom, Charles F. Maxfield. *2nd Row, left to right* — Rowland M. Blackstone, George H. Kittrell, Robert G. Lyman, Clarence F. Richter, Louis J. Hoeppner. Nelson W. Thomas, *Treasurer*, and Russell B. S. Greene, Jr., *Alternate Officer*, were not present when photograph was taken.

HISTORY — Continued

Grand Master, William H. H. Odell and his suite were present and Most Puissant Grand Master of the General Grand Council of the United States, J. Albert Blake, who lived in Malden, was also present.

Honors that came to Melrose Council during these years:— Past Illustrious Clarence E Cate, as Grand Lecturer of the Grand Council, paid us an Official Visitation in 1929. In 1930, this same Illustrious Companion was elected Deputy Grand Master. Two years later, Illustrious George Chisholm was elected Grand Treasurer.

In December 1933, Illustrious Companion Norman K. Wiggin was appointed Grand Lecturer and 4 years later he was elected Deputy Grand Master.

On an exchange of visits with Orient Council we found that our visit to their meeting was exactly 40 years after that memorable visit we made at the time we presented them with the Ark of the Covenant. Two of our Companions were present at both occasions.

Melrose Council finally missed a Regular Assembly because it came on the same night as the Great Hurricane of September 21, 1938. That storm was so severe that there was no need to tell Companions not to come. Travel that night was dangerous with trees, wires and poles down on the ground. Most of the streets were impassable.

The membership soared during the 1920's to a new high of 640 members in 1927 and prosperity was everywhere. Then came the National financial crash and another depression. During this time the Super Excellent Degree Drama was gaining in popularity. Money was annually being raised for costumes and Melrose had some good Companions to take the several parts. We gave the Drama with other Councils and later we had a full team, all in costume. Each year the out-going Illustrious Master urged a continued effort to strengthen the Drama. How much had been accumulated and spent for the regalia was at last published in

— *Continued on page 13*

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HISTORY — Continued

September, 1928. We got a report that there was $864.20 still in the fund. It was in the next year that the Council once again felt the heavy hand of membership losses that was not to end for several years. At this point the Illustrious Masters, as they started their year in office, realized that they must work harder to keep the interest of the members if they were to show any progress at the end of the year. Slowly, things economic were getting worse. In 1939, unemployment in the U.S. was at its all-time high of 9,500,000. War intervened with all its inconveniences to older people and sacrifices of our fighting men in far off places. With gas rationing, many of the Companions were reluctant to drive to the meetings. Once more our officers had to work hard to keep interest in the work of the Council.

On September 1, 1953, Melrose Council moved back to the Masonic Temple in Melrose, after being away for 85 years. At the October meeting a proposal in writing was made to change the By-Laws by an amendment to permit alteration of the seal so that it would read, "Melrose Council of Royal & Select Masters, Melrose" in place of the older wording, "Melrose Council of Royal & Select Masters, Malden". This change was on the notice sent out to the members as the call of the November meeting. It was favorably acted upon November 18, 1953. The corrected seal first appeared on the March 17, 1954 notice.

During the 1953-54 season Illustrious Albert F. Ford was appointed Grand Lecturer and Illustrious Howard M. Boothby was appointed Deputy Grand Master of Ceremonies.

For a period of three years starting December 1955, Illustrious Frank H. Wilson was appointed Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Massachusetts and Illustrious Howard M. Boothby became Grand Master of Ceremonies for a like term of three years. In the following year Illustrious

— Continued on page 15

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Herbert N. Faulkner

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Illustrious Master
Melrose Council
1942 - 1943

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Melrose Council
1934 - 1935

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Waverly Royal Arch Chapter

Melrose, Massachusetts

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on your 100th Anniversary

Hugh de Payens Commandery, No. 20
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Melrose, Massachusetts

HISTORY — Continued

Howard M. Boothby became Right Illustrious Deputy Grand Master of Ceremonies. He has served Melrose Council as Ritualist for many years.

Right Illustrious Edward Norris, holder of the York Cross of Honor, served as Grand Lecturer for seven years and at the same time for one year as Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Council. He has also been Grand Treasurer of the Grand Council for over 10 years and up to the present day. His honors and offices, like those of Most Illustrious Frank H. Wilson, are too many to record here.

Past Illustrious Masters Frederick H. Simmons and G. Burton Long are holders of the York Cross of Honor. This honor can only be conferred upon those who have served in the East of all four York Rite bodies. It indicates their complete Mastery of the York Rite ritual.

Melrose Council may well feel proud of their first century of service to the Craft. Over the years they have given a helping hand to other Councils. They have made many visits to other jurisdictions and been the host to others, who in turn made visits to Melrose. Cryptic Masonry by its very nature induces more participation from the Companions on the side lines. This tends to form a stronger bond between the members and the officers and a greater interest in the degree work.

The Super Excellent Drama is a good example of member participation. It calls for a lot of hard work and yet we never seem to want for good men in the cast. Men who cannot find the time to be regular officers will gladly give their time and energy to make this part of our work a success, year in and year out.

Collation time after the work of the evening is another event that few Companions want to miss. The degree work is short and leaves more time for the social hour and a longer time for the Companions to visit and yet be home early.

— Continued on page 17

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Right Illustrious EDWARD NORRIS

HISTORY — Continued

Eighty-two Past Illustrious Masters have served Melrose Council, of whom 25 are still living. Each in his own time has contributed to the total success of our Council. Many have continued to serve in other capacities long after they left the East. It takes years of work and study to reach the East. We salute these Illustrious Companions for their work well done. To the rank and file of Companions who come to meetings and lend their support to our work we say thanks for your support. All this, in fact, is for the benefit of "the side line members". Without their support, officers would work before empty seats and soon cease to function as a going organization. Farewell to 100 years of hard work with its near failures and its great moments of success and a salute to the next 100 years. May it be another century of hard work with its great moments of success.

Frank M. Stevens
Historian for the 100th Anniversary of Melrose Council

The Grand Council of Massachusetts

The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Massachusetts was organized in Boston June 15, 1826. A convention had been held previously at Brimfield, Mass., on February 8, 1826 under a circular of invitation from Springfield Council, at which it was voted that the various Councils send delegates to a convention in Boston.

The six Councils actually represented at the organization were:— Boston, dating from 1817; Springfield, 1818; Salem, 1818; Hiram, 1825; Medfield and Brimfield, the latter two have long since ceased from working. At this Boston convention it was voted to organize and to adopt a Constitution. There was a Council at the time in Lowell, but it was not invited to join the other six Councils at the formation

— Continued on page 19

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Royal and Select Masters

Winthrop, Mass.

Compliments of

Frederick H. Simmons

Illustrious Master

Melrose Council

1954 - 1955

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Companion

Loren B. Sjostrom

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Companion

Clayton B. Wright

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Most Illustrious

FRANK HARRISON WILSON

Illustrious Master, Melrose Council of Royal and Select Masters — 1936-37

Most Illustrious Grand Master

Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Massachusetts — 1956-57-58

Greeted in Melrose Council Royal and Select Masters, February 17, 1926. Illustrious Master 1936-1937. Trustee of the Permanent Fund 1945-1951. Honorary Member. Chairman of the 100th Anniversary Committee in 1966.

Grand Council Royal and Select Masters of Massachusetts. Most Illustrious Grand Master 1956-57-58. Permanent Member, Grand Council R. & S. M. of Mass. Director of Promotional Activities 1953-54-55. Trustee of the funds from 1959. Grand Representative, Grand Council R. & S.M. of New Jersey. Honorary member of the following Councils: St. George's Council, No. 74, Schenectady, N.Y.; Holyoke, Attleboro and Melrose. Permanent Member, General Grand Council, R. & S.M. Internationale. Massachusetts Council of Thrice Illustrious Masters, Life Member. Thrice Illustrious Master 1956-57-58. Member, Council of Anointed Kings, Connecticut, 1959. Received Order of the Silver Trowel. Thrice Illustrious Masters degree, Grand Council R & S.M. District of Columbia, Washington, 1956.

GRAND COUNCIL — Continued

of the Grand Council because of its existence not being known.

Boston Council in 1817 does not appear to have been under authority from any Grand body, but Columbian Council, New York recognized it. Springfield Council was organized under a warrant issued by Jeremy Ladd Cross, who is said to have been the Founder of the Cryptic Rite. Cross was General Grand Lecturer of the Grand Council of Maryland, and had been commissioned by that Grand Council with the right to establish Councils. Thus he communicated the degrees to interested groups and often left a warrant for the organization of Councils. Many of the early Councils no doubt came into existence from a "Cross" Charter.

It is interesting to note that there was a Council on the Island of Nantucket in 1823, according to the August 12th, 1823 records of Union Lodge. However, there is no official record of it in our Grand Council.

In 1872, Annual "Convocation" was changed to Annual "Assembly". Prior to 1876 the order of conferring degrees had included the Select before the Royal. In 1876 the previous title of Grand Council of "Select and Royal Masters" was changed to Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters". In 1922 the title "Thrice Illustrious Master" was changed to "Illustrious Master".

There are now 33 Constituent Councils in Massachusetts with a total membership of over 7400. During the 140 years of its existence, Grand Council has had 142 Most Illustrious Grand Masters. Grand Council alone among the jurisdictions, and like our Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, elects its Most Illustrious Grand Master, as a rule, for three successive years, while Grand Officers do not move from Station to Station up the line. The results of years of experience has proved to our satisfaction the wisdom of this course.

The official seal of Grand Council represents two inverted equilateral tri-

— *Continued on page 21*

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GRAND COUNCIL — Continued

angles, one within the other, the inner triangle contains a trowel suspended by a knot of ribbon from the top lines and surmounted by two crowns, all enclosed by rays within two circles; between the inner and the outer circle the legend: "Grand Council of Massachusetts", with the year of organization "1826".

What Is The Council?

Cryptic Masonry is a charitable, benevolent, educational, and religious secret society, adhering to its own peculiar ancient customs and rituals, including the ancient Landmarks of Freemasonry. The methods of recognition and of symbolic instruction are secret and thereby a test of membership is provided, though a Companion be traveling in foreign countries and among those who would otherwise be strangers.

It is charitable in that none of its income inures to the benefit of any individual, but all is devoted to the improvement and promotion of the happiness of mankind.

It is benevolent in that it teaches relief of the poor and distressed Companions and their widows and orphans.

It is educational in that it teaches a perfect system of morality, based upon the Sacred Law, by a prescribed ceremonial.

It is religious in that it teaches monotheism, the Volume of the Sacred Law is open upon its altars whenever a Council is in session, worship of God is ever a part of its ceremonial, and to its neophytes and Companions alike are constantly addressed lessons of morality; yet it is not theological.

It is a social organization only so far as it furnishes additional inducement that men may foregather in numbers, thereby providing more material for its primary work of training, of worship, and of charity.

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Departed January 16, 1966

†

He walked life's highway —
a true friend,
a dedicated physician,
a respected Christian gentleman,
and a loyal Companion
of Melrose Council of
Royal and Select Masters.

May his soul have
Eternal Peace and
may Light Perpetual
shine upon him.

This tribute is given by the Drama Cast of the Super Excellent Degree
of Melrose Council who had the privilege of
sharing the work with him

100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEES

General Chairman .... *Most Illustrious* Frank H. Wilson, *Past Grand Master of The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Mass.*

Vice Chairman ..... *Right Illustrious* Howard M. Boothby

Treasurer ..... *Illustrious* Nelson W. Thomas
Illustrious Clarence A. Moff

Secretary ..... *Illustrious* Louis J. Hoeppner

Finance ..... *Illustrious* Roy M. Reed
Illustrious Frederick H. Simmons

Program Chairman ..... *Illustrious* Frederick A. Seddon
Co-Chairmen ..... *Illustrious* G. Burton Long, Arnold G. Cole, Charles F. Maxfield and *Companion* Robert I. Barr

Religious Services ..... *Right Illustrious* Howard M. Boothby
Rev. Companion John A. Martin

History ..... *Companion* Frank M. Stevens

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Companion Ralph Puddister

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Transportation ..... *Companion* Herbert E. Swanstrom

Hospitality and Reception .... All Elected Officers and Past Illustrious Masters

Catering Services ..... *Companion* Stanley A. Flagg
Companions Marshall and Howell, The Towne House, Melrose

PROGRAM

SUNDAY, APRIL 17th, 1966

9:00 A.M. Opening of Melrose Council.

9:15 A.M. Breakfast. Catered by The Towne House, Melrose.

10:00 A.M. Introduction of Head Table and distinguished visitors.
Introduction of Speaker, *Companion* Stanley F. Maxwell, *Past Deputy Grand Master of The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Past Grand High Priest of The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Massachusetts, Chief Rabban of Aleppo Temple, A.A.O.N.M.S. 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason* and other Titles including *Companion of Melrose Council of Royal and Select Masters.*

10:25 A.M. Procession, by automobile, to Highlands Congregational Church, Franklin Street, Melrose.

11:00 A.M. Worship Service conducted by *Rev. Companion* John A. Martin.

12:00 noon Return to Melrose Council for Closing.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20th, 1966

6:30 P.M. DINNER. Catered by *Companion* Stanley A. Flagg.

7:30 P.M. Opening of Council in the Select Degree.
Business Meeting.

8:00 P.M. Reception of *Most Illustrious* Frank W. Balcomb, *Grand Master of The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Massachusetts,* and his Suite.

8:30 P.M. Introduction of The General Chairman of The 100th Anniversary Committee of Melrose Council of Royal and Select Masters, *Most Illustrious* Frank H. Wilson, *Past Grand Master of The Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Massachusetts.*

8:40 P.M. Introduction of Past Illustrious Masters.
Conferring of The Select Degree on a Class of Candidates by the Past Illustrious Masters of Melrose Council under the Chairmanship of *Right Illustrious* Howard M. Boothby.
Closing of the Council by *Most Illustrious* Frank W. Balcomb.

COLLATION

SATURDAY, APRIL 23rd, 1966

LADIES NIGHT

6:30 P.M. SOCIAL HOUR. The Empire Room, Towne House, Melrose.

7:30 P.M. DINNER

Fresh Fruit Cup
ROAST BEEF
Delmonico Potatoes — Green Peas with Braised Mushrooms
Relish Tray — Tossed Towne House Salad
Assorted Dinner Rolls
French Vanilla Ice Cream with Strawberries
Coffee — Tea — Milk
After Dinner Mints

8:30 P.M. Introduction of Head Table and Distinguished Visitors.

8:45 P.M. ENTERTAINMENT
A MUSICAL CONCERT by LILLIAN and ALFRED LEE

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In Memoriam

✝

Companion WALTER E. FURBER
Companion CHARLES W. GURDY
Companion JAMES R. FINDLAY
Companion EDWARD R. GOODWIN
Companion HERBERT E. NELSON
Companion FRANCIS C. W. LAZENBY
Companion HARRY B. TAYLOR
Companion WALTER E. FISH, JR.
Companion SAMUEL MILLIKEN
Companion LINWOOD H. SMITH
Companion GEORGE L. LOUD
Companion FRED J. JONES
Companion GEORGE A. HAINES
Companion MALCOLM B. SEAVEY

May the Light they sought and received in part while they were with us, be their guiding radiance to Eternal Light.

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The Origin of the Council Degrees

Like many of the Masonic degrees, the origin of the degrees of the Cryptic Rite are also shrouded in mystery. A little over a century and a half ago these degrees appeared as from nowhere. Masonic lecturers throughout the Eastern part of the United States were conferring them upon representative Masons.

When the degrees first appear on the records, they seem to have been of separate origin, or side degrees to which no one made exclusive claim.

In 1826 there were very earnest discussions on the subject of the origin and jurisdiction of the degrees of Royal and Select Master. At that time there were three authorities under whom these degrees were conferred in the United States. First, under Grand Councils in some of the States; secondly, under Grand Chapters, as in Virginia and West Virginia; and thirdly, under the Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, as in South Carolina. This diversity of authority was undoubtedly dependent on an uncertainty of origin. The degrees were here, but few knew whence they came nor by whom they had been originally introduced, but an attempt on the part of the Grand Chapter of Maryland, in the year 1826, to assume jurisdiction and authority over these degrees led to investigations into their history.

As early as 1766 these degrees were conferred in the city of Albany, New York, and in 1783 they were conferred in the Scottish Rite bodies in Charleston, South Carolina. In 1792 the Select Master's degree was conferred in Baltimore, Maryland, under the authority of a Grand Council of Select Masters. In 1819 a Grand Council was formed in Connecticut, and this is the Oldest Grand Council in the world. In 1880 a convention composed of representatives of twenty-two Grand Coun-

— *Continued on page 31*

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ORIGIN — Continued

cils met at Detroit and adopted a constitution, which, when ratified by nine Grand Councils, was to become operative. By February 1881 the requisite number of Grand Councils had ratified the constitution, and the first assembly of the General Grand Council was held in Denver, Colorado in August, 1883.

There are now Grand Councils in every State except in Virginia and West Virginia. In these two States the Council degrees form a part of Royal Arch Chapters, so that the candidate in the Chapter receives six degrees and in this order:— Mark Master; Past Master; Select Master; Royal Master; Most Excellent Master; and Royal Arch Mason. There are also subordinate Councils in other parts of the world, as in Germany; Philippines; Canal Zone; Japan; and Mexico.

Cryptic Masonry in this country has 1500 Councils and a membership of well over 300,000.

The Council
Royal and Select Masters

(CRYPTIC DEGREES)

Royal Master

This Degree takes us backward in time to a day prior to the death of the BUILDER, who is again the central character. It imparts sublime teachings of a useful labor on earth and gives valuable instruction as to the preservation of our precious secrets. This is one of the most beautiful Degrees in Masonry with lessons so impressive that they are never forgotten. It is especially illustrative of the third and seventh Degrees.

Select Master

This Degree also historically occurs prior to the third Degree and deals with incidents that occurred at the building of the first Temple. It is closely connected with the Royal Arch

— *Continued on page 33*

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DEGREES — Continued

Degree and affords the explanation needed for its perfect understanding.

Super Excellent Degree (first section)

This Degree refers to circumstances and incidents during the siege of Jerusalem, and the final destruction of the Temple.

Here is completed the Circle of Perfection of Ancient Craft Masonry.

SUPER-EXCELLENT DEGREE
DRAMA

Dramatized in full costume and make-up, with a cast of 44 actors, all members of Melrose Council, the first scene in this degree represents an assemblage in the Court of King Zedekiah in the last hour of the last day of the third and last siege of Jerusalem. Here, Zedekiah's infidelity to his vows, his contempt for the Prophet of God, and his cowardly acquiescence to his false counselors are faithfully depicted. Then follows the attack upon the palace, the escape of the King and the disposition of Gedaliah, the Faithful, and his immediate followers.

The second scene represents Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, with his court at Riblah, after Jerusalem had been taken; the arraignment of Zedekiah, his condemnation and terrible punishment.

The third and last scene represents the Captives in Babylon, paying the penalty of their apostacy and infidelity. But, in the darkest hours of their captivity, there comes to them the promise of God, through his prophet, that, in ten weeks of years, God would restore them to the land of their fathers and reestablish their former glory.

Companions: this Degree is intended not merely to represent historical occurrences, but also to bring to your minds and hearts the great lesson of FIDELITY — to God, your country, your neighbors and yourselves. Through the beautiful symbolism of this and preceding degrees, increasing ever, grows Masonic Friendship. Like

— Continued on page 35

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Melrose Council

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DEGREES — Continued

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Drama Cast

Gordon L. Spinney — *Director*

Howard M. Boothby — *Asst. Director*
Louis J. Hoeppner ..... *Prologue*
Frederick Seddon ..... *Zedekiah*
Wilmer Macdonald ... *Evil-Merodach*
George Kittrell ..... *Belteshazzer*
John Bergh ..... *Concubine*
Clarence Moff ..... *Concubine*
Charles F. Maxfield ..... *Gedaliah*
Roy L. Parsons, Jr. ..... *Zephaniah*
Bernard Cann ..... *Shepathiah*
Herbert Swanstrom ..... *Ashpenaz*
Chester Turner ..... *Pashur*
Russell B. Greene, Jr. ..... *Shelemiah*
George Beers ..... *Messenger*
Arnold G. Cole ..... *Jeremiah*
Carl Peckham ..... *1st Herald*
Horace E. Boothby ..... *2nd Herald*
Stanley A. Flagg ..... *4th Herald*
Roy M. Reed ..... *Nebuchadnezzar*
Jack Snider ..... *Nebuzaradan*
Frederick Simmons ..... *Jonathan*
Robert Barr ..... *Arioch*
Ely Avery ..... *Chariot*
Kenneth Bigelow ..... *Chariot*
Abbott W. Boyles ..... *1st Keeper*
William Leviston ..... *2nd Keeper*
Clarence Richter ..... *3rd Keeper*
John A. Birdsall ..... *Guard*
Robert C. Birdsall ..... *Guard*
Harold W. Drake ..... *Guard*
Chester Oldmixon ..... *Guard*
Stewart Ryder ..... *Guard*
Albert H. Witter ..... *3rd Keeper*
Ralph L. Connolly ..... *Army*
James W. Dunnell ..... *Army*
Frank M. Stevens ..... *Army*
Ralph G. Eames ..... *Band*
Charles Climo ..... *Music*
Rowland Blackstone ..... *Music*
Wyatt O. Ingalls ..... *Band*
G. Burton Long ..... *Ezekiel*
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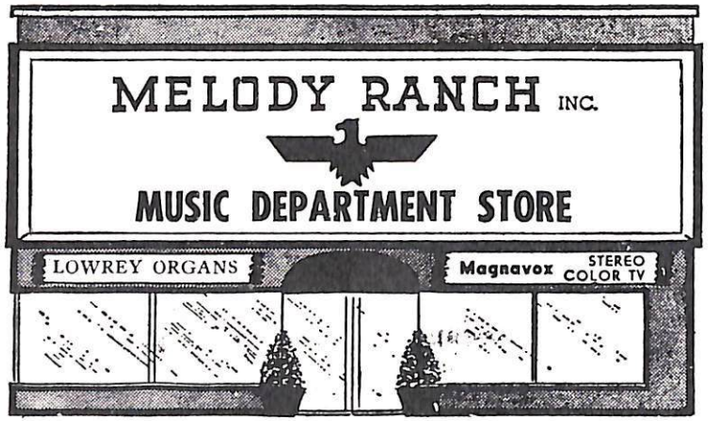

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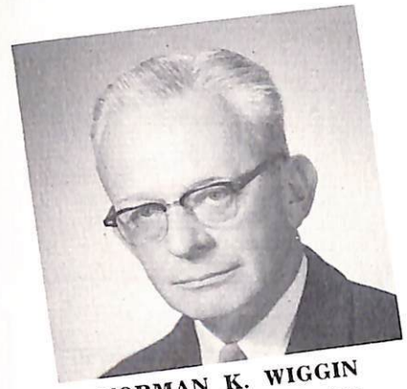

NORMAN K. WIGGIN
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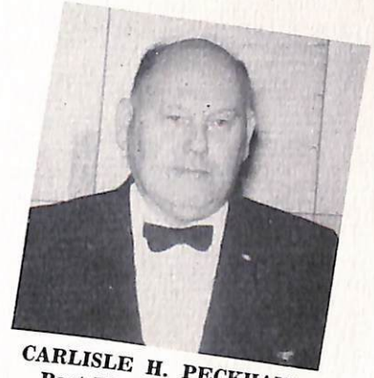
1932 - 1933

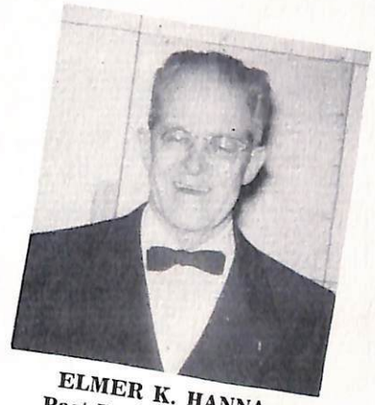
GEORGE S. KENISON
Past Illustrious Master
1934 - 1935

WILBUR E. PARKER
Past Illustrious Master
1938 - 1939



CARLISLE H. PECKHAM
Past Illustrious Master
1940 - 1941

ANGIER L. GOODWIN
Past Illustrious Master
1942 - 1943



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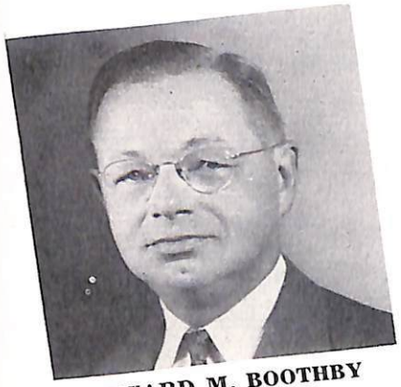
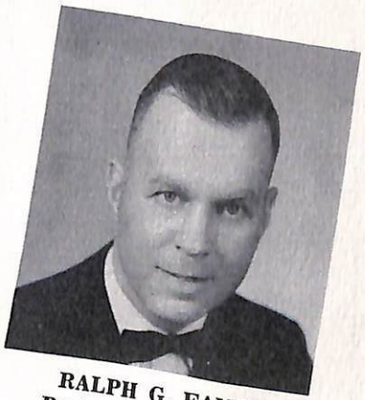


HOWARD M. BOOTHBY
Past Illustrious Master
1952 - 1953

FREDERICK H. SIMMONS
Past Illustrious Master
1954 - 1955

CASMAR J. SVEISTYS
Past Illustrious Master
1955 - 1956



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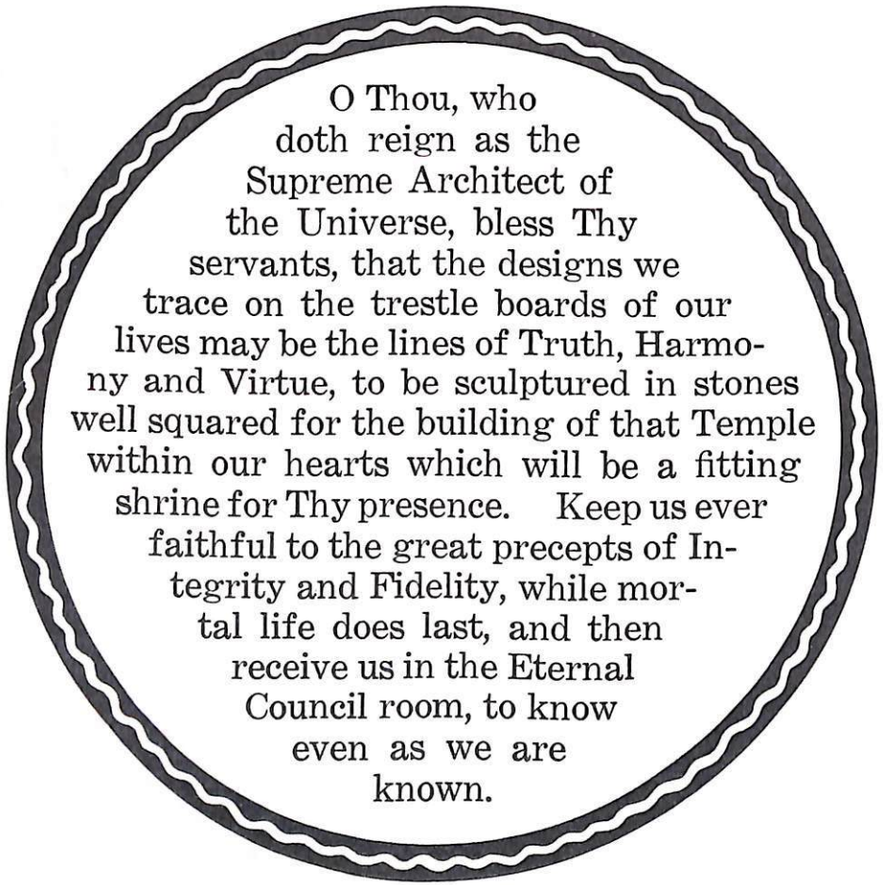
O Thou, who
doth reign as the
Supreme Architect of
the Universe, bless Thy
servants, that the designs we
trace on the trestle boards of our
lives may be the lines of Truth, Harmo-
ny and Virtue, to be sculptured in stones
well squared for the building of that Temple
within our hearts which will be a fitting
shrine for Thy presence. Keep us ever
faithful to the great precepts of In-
tegrity and Fidelity, while mor-
tal life does last, and then
receive us in the Eternal
Council room, to know
even as we are
known.

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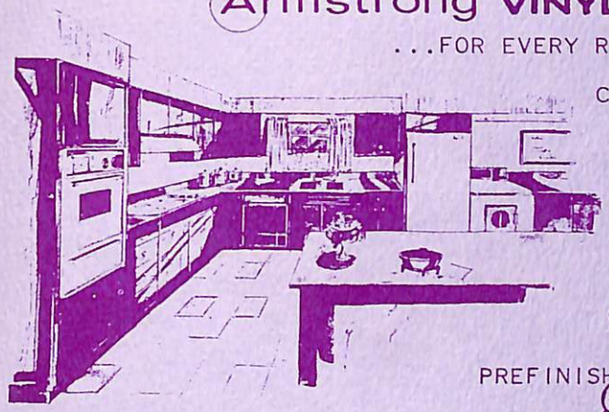

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